Torreya Californica in Santa Cruz County

There is a California nutmeg tree growing on Scott Creek, Santa Cruz County, which is 6 feet, 4 inches in diameter at 5 feet from the ground; it is 6 feet in diameter at 8 feet from the ground. Do you know of any larger tree of this species? There is also a tree one half mile farther up the creek which is 4 feet, 4 inches in diameter at 3½ feet above the ground.—C. A. Reed, October 4, 1932.

Torreya Californica in the North Coast Ranges

I have seen the California nutmeg on the mountain [of St. Helena] and in the hills west of Knights Valley (but it is not common), and also on Sulphur Creek between the little and big geysers in the region of Geyser Peak. There is a fair sized tree growing at Carl Purdy's "Terraces" east of Ukiah. It is in the open and is comparable to a fir, for it is straight and perhaps thirty-five feet high.

In August of 1923 I rode from Cedar Camp on Goat Mountain to Upper Lake in one day, leading a mule, and crossed the upper valley of Twin Valleys along the telephone line and followed the crest of the Bartlett Mountain ridge toward Elk Mountain and came out on a road that runs from Upper Lake Valley to Pasmore Springs. Following this road toward Upper Lake I traveled level for about a quarter of a mile on the north side of a ridge, and here (along the roadside) I saw what at that time were the largest nutmeg trees I had ever seen. However, they are not so large as the tree I saw at Purdy's Terraces last year, being rather thin, not so tall, and standing in a forest on poorer ground.

Had I had time this last fall or earlier in the winter I would have liked to go and get specimens of a shrub of which I have heard, just for the pleasure of experimenting in a horticultural way. Lake County friends from that Long Valley east of Clear Lake told me that the Indians there go in the fall to the Bear Valley Mountains and bring back a dried fruit similar to a date, except that it is only about half as big and is kind of grainy or mealy in texture. This fruit, they say, grows on a shrub or bush, and the Indians call it "munz".—David S. Holmes, Knights Valley, Sonoma Co., Mar. 1, 1928.

NOTES AND NEWS

Dr. James William Toumey died May 6, 1932. He was professor of botany at the University of Arizona from 1892 to 1898, later going to the Yale Forest School where he has been professor of silviculture since 1910. He was a man of high character and an excellent scientist.

The name of the Eddy Tree Breeding Station at Placerville, California, has been changed to the Institute of Forest Genetics. Mr. Lloyd Austin is the director.

Mr. Theodore Payne of Los Angeles, an old-time cultivator of native annuals, has recently issued a new edition of his "California Wild Flower Seeds".

During the ten-year period from 1922 to 1931 there were reported 34,407 forest fires in California. Of these tobacco smokers caused 10,133 according to the United States Forest Service, lightning 6,195, incendiaries 4,574, campers 2,321, railroads 1,415, lumbering 1,038, while 3,748 fires are classified as miscellaneous.

The Templeton Crocker Expedition to the Galapagos Islands, which left California on March 10, 1932, put in at San Diego August 23 on its return voyage, reaching San Francisco, the home port, on September 1. The expedition was a highly successful one. The botanist was John Thomas Howell, Assistant Curator in the Herbarium, California Academy of Sciences.

The goat grass, Aegilops triuncialis L., has in recent years become established as a serious pest in the grazing foothill lands of Eldorado, Sacramento and Calaveras counties. Observations of it and collections have been made by Fred P. Cronemiller, now Supervisor of the Modoc National Forest. It has also been found sparingly in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties. L. S. Smith, Grazing Examiner, Tahoe National Forest, has also collected this species in Eldorado County. It is a native of Europe and by most European grass authorities is referred to the genus Triticum (wheat) as T. triunciale Rasp.

Dr. Albert Schneider, formerly professor of botany in the College of Pharmacy of the University of California, died in Portland, Oregon, in 1928.

"A Revision of the Genus Menodora" by J. A. Steyermark and "A Monographic Study of the Genus Lycium of the Western Hemisphere" by C. L. Hitchcock appear in the Annals of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, vol. 19 (1932). In Lycium 45 species are recognized and illustrated by 13 plates.

Mrs. Ynes Mexia, a member of this Society, returned to California on March 21, 1932, from a collecting trip which extended across South America from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Leaving San Francisco on October 16, 1929, Mrs. Mexia went to Vicosa, Brazil, which she made her headquarters for over a year. Diamantina, the classic collecting ground of Martius, was next visited, then Belen at the mouth of the Amazon River. Traveling by boat up the Amazon she arrived at Iquitos, Peru. From this point she made a side trip by canoe through the gorge of the Amazon, remaining for several months among the native tribes of the region of Pongo de Manseriche. From Iquitos over the Andes the journey was made by airplane, automobile and railroad to Lima, Peru. From Lima Mrs. Mexia traveled by boat to Balboa where she embarked for home. The collection comprises about 60,000 specimens, including about 3,000 numbers. On June 1 before the California Academy of Sciences Mrs. Mexia gave a lecture entitled: Up the Amazon and Over the Andes. This lecture will be repeated on October 19, as the first of the fall series of public lectures sponsored by the Academy.

Between June 9 and July 15, 1932, Dr. W. A. Setchell of the Department of Botany, University of California, and Mrs. Setchell, collected in Alaska 350 numbers of Salix, representing about 24 species and 15 varieties. The route traversed extended from Ketchikan north to Fort Yukon, southwest to Holy Cross and south to Seward. Considerable collecting was done in the general regions of Fairbanks and McKinley National Park.

According to Section 384a of the Penal Code of California it is against the law to cut or destroy any native tree, shrub or fern along state and county highways or on any private land without the written permit of the owner. In addition to this a number of counties, especially in Southern California, have special ordinances protecting various species of native herbs.

Mt. Diablo, the most striking landmark of the central Great Valley, is being acquired by the California State Park Commission as a state park under a plan of purchase. The mountain has been visited by botanists for about seventy years and is interesting on account of its isolation, its varied vegetation and a few rare endemics which inhabit its summit. It is a matter of congratulation, that the present members of the Park Commission are disposed to preserve the mountain in its present natural state as near as circumstances will permit.

On July 21, 1932, while collecting plants on San Miguel Island, Mr. Ralph Hoffman, Director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, fell from a cliff and was killed. It is said that he used his trowel in climbing and apparently the trowel broke, causing his fall. The Santa Barbara Museum has prospered under his administration and the loss to the city is very great. One of his activities centered around the herbarium which he planned should represent adequately and fully the native plants of the Santa Barbara region. In the genus Eriogonum he took an especial interest and had collected in the back country a considerable number of new and interesting forms in the last four years.

Harvard University conferred in 1931 on Rimo Bacigalupi, a member of this Society, the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Dr. Bacigalupi's thesis is entitled: A monograph of the genus Perezia, section Acourtia [Contrib. Gray Herb. no. 97].

An excellent annotated list of cacti and other succulents cultivated in the Santa Barbara region has been issued under the auspices of the Community Arts Association of Santa Barbara. The list has been compiled by Ralph Hoffmann, E. O. Orpet, Eric Walther and James West, and edited by Pearl Chase. It forms a book of 107 pages which is well arranged, admirably printed and finely illustrated. In California, Santa Barbara has always taken the lead in the introduction, culture and study of ornamental exotics, and it is interesting to observe that fine traditions are being upheld and strengthened. (929 Paseo Carillo, Santa Barbara. $1.00.)

"The forest that fire made," by S. W. Greene, discusses the role of fire in the Southern states, especially Mississippi (American Forests, vol. 37, pp. 583-584, 618).

Dr. David D. Keck of the Carnegie Institution has published the first part of his "Studies in Pentstemon" under the title, A systematic treatment of the section Saccanthera. It is illustrated by eighteen figures and will be followed, doubtless, by other parts equally intensive (Univ. Cal. Publ. Bot. vol. 16, no. 11, Feb., 1932).

A biography of Samuel Bonsall Parish by W. L. Jepson has been issued by the University of California Press (Univ. Cal. Publ. vol. 16. no. 12). The publication carries a portrait, bibliography and also a list of Mr. Parish's botanical journeys.

The area of magnificent sugar pines (Pinus Lambertiana) along the Big Oak Flat road to Yosemite in the neighborhood of Carl Inn was originally a part of Yosemite Park but has since been excluded, and this forest, now in private possession, will be logged. This situation is feelingly described in a well-printed and beautifully illustrated pamphlet entitled "The doomed Yosemite Sugar Pines," which is being circulated from New York City by the "Emergency Conservation Committee." The Committee solicits donations "however small" for its campaign to save these trees. It is noteworthy, however, that the appeal is made without any names as sponsors whatsoever.

The history of fire in the Redwood belt and the use of fire in logging operations is profitably discussed by Emanuel Fritz in a paper "The Role of Fire in the Redwood Region" (Univ. Cal. Agr. Exp. Sta. Circ. 323). A copy may be had from the College of Agriculture, Berkeley.

The annual exhibition in mid-December, 1931, of the Division of Plant Biology of the Carnegie Institution at Washington, was presented by Mr. W. M. Heusi of the Stanford laboratory. Mr. Heusi later repeated the exhibit at the American Association meetings in New Orleans. Living Zauschneria plants were used to illustrate how far environmental conditions on the one hand and heredity on the other controlled the character of their leaves. Dr. John Belling, now at the University of California, also exhibited at Washington for the Division of Plant Biology with models of chromomeres of Lilium.—David D. Keck.

Lester Rountree's "California Wild Flower Seeds" list no. 7 is circulated as "the world's largest collection of wild flower seeds." The publication states that the company will neither personally collect nor handle for commercial sale native California plants dug from wild stands. (Carmel, California.)

Among lately received reprints from the Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden are two of special interest to California botanists. A Monograph of the Genus Sidalcea by Eva M. Fling Roush (Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 18: 117-244,—1931) treats the history, morphology, relationships, and taxonomy of the genus. Twenty species are recognied, fifteen of which occur in California. A Revision of the Genus Frasera by Hamilton H. Card (Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 18: 245-282,—1931) is a brief treatment on similar lines of a group usually regarded as a section of the genus Swertia. As here interpreted it comprises twelve species, seven of which are represented in California. A Monograph of Cymopterus including a Critical Study of Related Genera by Mildred E. Mathias (Studies in the Umbelliferae III, Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 17: 213-476,—1930) is a comprehensive account of twelve of the genera of a closely related group. California representatives include Cymopterus, Phellopteris, Aulospermum, Pteryxia and the endemic Podistera. Notes on the Distribution of Some Rocky Mountain Species by George J. Goodman (Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 18: 283-286,—1931) is a record of the occurrence in the Uintah Mountains, Utah, of several species not previously listed for that region. —E. K. Crum.

Death Valley: The Facts, by W. A. Chalfant, is a careful account of a highly interesting region. It is, as the author insists, based upon facts rather than fancy, and should do much to dissipate current misconceptions. In addition to the chapter on plant life, those treating climatology, geography, geology, and the problems of desert travel will prove especially interesting to botanists. The book covers the subject thoroughly, adequately and interestingly. So comprehensive a manual for the desert is an achievement.

Through an ingenious investigation of the seed contents and the plant remains in adobe bricks which were taken from missions and other historic buildings of the early Southwest, Professor Geo. Hendry, College of Agriculture, University of California, has prepared a list of findings, and has also listed certain alien weeds, fifteen in number, believed to have been introduced into California in the mission period (1769-1824) and other alien weeds, sixteen in number, thought to belong to the post-mission period, 1824 and after. On account of having been found in the oldest walls, Rumex crispus, Erodium cicutarium and Sonchus asper, are regarded as of earlier introduction. ("The adobe brick as a historical source." Agricultural History, vol. 5, pp. 110-127.)

An important addition to our knowledge of the native pondweeds, by Dr. M. L. Fernald of the Gray Herbarium, appears under the title "The linear-leaved North American species of Potamogeton, section Axillares". The paper is accompanied by forty plates (Mem. Am. Acad. vol. 17, part 1, pp. 1-183. July, 1932).